

Delaware CEDS

*a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
for the State of Delaware*



Delaware CEDS – a program of the Delaware Economic Development Office
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published September 2005

Sussex Co. WATER QUALITY Facts

I. Summary of Topic's Relationship to Economic Development

Clean and healthy surface water and groundwater is paramount to sustain Delaware's commercial, manufacturing, agriculture, recreation, and tourism industries.

II. Trends and Existing Conditions

Groundwater wells in Sussex County experience exceedances for nitrogen, iron, manganese, and pesticides. All wells have water-treatment systems that remove pollutants to meet the Delaware drinking-water standards. The Inland Bays region, near the ocean coast of Delaware, experiences periodic exceedances of nitrogen and phosphorus that lead to algae blooms during the warmer months.

III. Projections and Plans

The Delaware Source Water Protection Program is mandated by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and is designed to identify and detect sources of pollution in the aquifers that provide a drinking-water supply. DNREC and the Center for the Inland Bays are implementing a pollution-control strategy in accordance with the TMDL provisions of the Clean Water Act to clean up the sources of nitrogen and phosphorus to the Inland Bays region.

IV. Identified Opportunities and Constraints

Clean drinking-water supplies provide an opportunity for economic growth if the drinking-water intakes are fitted with water-treatment plants that remove pollutants in accordance with the Delaware Drinking Water standards. The Inland Bay Pollution Control Strategy is designed to protect and restore the quality of the bays, thus continuing to sustain the tourism economy along Delaware's oceanfront.